

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 AID-05 ORM-02 DHA-02 /078 W
-----190746Z 111237 /10

R 181500Z MAR 77
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8806
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NY

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR, IS, JO
SUBJ: WEST BANK REACTION TO CARTER'S CLINTON STATEMENTS

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. SUMMARY: CARTER'S CALL FOR A PALESTINIAN HOMELAND WIDELY COVERED BY LOCAL MEDIA. PLO SATISFACTION AND ISRAELI UNEASE HIGHLIGHTED. INITIAL EDITORIAL REACTION STRONGLY POSITIVE. END SUMMARY.

2. EXTENSIVE COVERAGE BY JORDAN TV GAVE WEST BANK PALESTINIANS AN OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR FOR THEMSELVES PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENTS IN CLINTON, MARCH 16 WHICH INCLUDED HIS CALL FOR A HOMELAND FOR THE PALESTINIANS.

3. AL QUDS (MODERATE), MARCH 18, BANNERS THE STORY: "CARTER CALLS FOR HOMELAND FOR THE PALESTINAIANS, WARNS OF A MIDDLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EAST WAR WHICH WOULD INVOLVE THE WORLD AND A RENEWED OIL EMBARGO. PLO WELCOMES WASHINGTON'S NEW STAND. ISRAELI UNEASE. ITS STORY FROM WIRE REPORTS PICK UP CARTER'S STRESS ON NEED FOR ARAB STATES TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL.

4. IN ITS EDITORIALS, AL QUDS WELCOMES CARTER'S STATEMENTS AS A HISTORIC FIRST. "ONCE AGAIN, CARTER HAS PROVED HE IS

READY TO DISCUSS THE CENTRAL PROBLEM OF THE CONFLICT AND
TAKE A CLEAR STAND... WE SENSE CARTER IS SINCERE IN HIS SEARCH
FOR PEACE." EDITORIAL ALSO NOTES, WITHOUT CRITICISM, THE
PRESIDENT'S STRONG SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL AND, WITH A SLIGHT DIS-
APPOINTMENT, HIS USE OF PALESTINIAN "REFUGEES"
NOT "PEOPLE" (SHA'AB).

5. AL FARJ (PRO-PLO) MARCH 18, DOES NOT FOCUS ON CARTER'S
STATEMENTS DIRECTLY, RATHER ON FAVORABLE REACTION IN
PALESTINIAN CIRCLES INCLUDING ARAFAT'S ON BEHALF OF THE
PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL. OUT OF STEP, ITS EDITORIAL FOR
THE DAY IS ENTITLED: " THE AMERICAN ENEMY, THE SOVIET
FRIEND" AND ARGUES THAT "FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI
CONFLICT UNTIL TODAY THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN AMERICA'S
HOSTILE POLICY...AND THAT BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF AMERICAN
CAPITALIST SYSTEM."

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6. COMMENT: CODE WORDS. AMONG PALESTINIANS ON THE WEST BANK,
THE TERM "REFUGEE" BRINGS TO MIND RESOLUTION 242 WHICH, THE
PALESTINIANS ARGUE, REDUCES THEIR CAUSE FROM THE POLITICAL TO
THE HUMANITARIAN PLANE. HENCE, EVEN SYMPATHETIC REFERENCE TO
THE PLIGHT OF PALESTINIAN REFUGEES DOES NOT ELICIT A
POSITIVE REACTION. SHOULD WE NEED A MINI-ENCOURAGEMENT
FOR PALESTINIANS IN THE FUTURE, WE MIGHT SUBSTITUTE
THE TERM "PEOPLE" (OR SIMPLY "PALESTINIANS") FOR "REFUGEES"
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WITHOUT, WE BELIEVE, ANY INCREASED ANTAGONISM OF
ISRAELI SENSITIVITIES. A GLOSS ON RESOLUTION 242 TO THIS
EFFECT MIGHT HELP MAKE IT ACCEPTABLE TO THE PALESTINIANS
AND SIMPLIFY THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE PEACE PROCESS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WEST BANK, PALESTINIANS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, PEACE PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977JERUSA00418
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770094-0761
Format: TEL
From: JERUSALEM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770346/aaaabnwh.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5a0ceeb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3068951
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WEST BANK REACTION TO CARTER'S CLINTON STATEMENTS BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
TAGS: PBOR, PDEV, JO, IS, PLO, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5a0ceeb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009